

With best wishes, I am,  
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,  
Clerk of the House.

# COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
September 22, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 22, 2006, at 11:20 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 3850.

With best wishes, I am,  
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,  
Clerk of the House.

# ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

# LOWER FARMINGTON RIVER AND SALMON BROOK WILD AND SCENIC RIVER STUDY ACT

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1344) to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of the Farmington River and Salmon Brook in the State of Connecticut for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1344

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

## SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic River Study Act".

## SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF ADDITIONAL SEGMENT OF FARMINGTON RIVER AND SALMON BROOK IN CONNECTICUT FOR STUDY FOR POTENTIAL ADDITION TO NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) The Farmington River and Salmon Brook in the State of Connecticut possess important resource values, including wildlife, ecological, and scenic values, and historic sites and a cultural past important to America's heritage.

(2) There is a longstanding interest among State and local officials, area residents, and river and brook users in undertaking a con-

certed cooperative effort to manage the river and brook in a productive and meaningful way.

(b) DESIGNATION.—Section 5(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1276(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(139) LOWER FARMINGTON RIVER AND SALMON BROOK, CONNECTICUT.—The segment of the Farmington River downstream from the segment designated as a recreational river by section 3(a)(156) to its confluence with the Connecticut River, and the segment of the Salmon Brook including its mainstem and east and west branches."

(c) TIME FOR SUBMISSION.—Not later than three years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to Congress a report containing the results of the study required by the amendment made by subsection (b).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) and the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

□ 1415

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1344, introduced by the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON) and amended by the House Resources Committee would designate a segment of the Farmington River and Salmon Brook in the State of Connecticut for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic River Systems.

I urge adoption of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. BORDALLO asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, while the majority has decided to bypass the hearing and the committee consideration process for the pending legislation, H.R. 1344, since it simply authorizes a study of a proposed river designation, we have no objection to adoption of the bill by the House today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON), the author of the bill.

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI); and I thank the gentlewoman from Guam for her concurrence in moving this study forward; and I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO), chairman of the Resources Committee, for allowing this matter to come to the floor of the House early in the week.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1344, the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic River Study Act. This important legislation builds on the designation of the west branch of the Farmington River which I initiated in 1994. The bill

commissions a feasibility study to evaluate whether the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook qualify as a Wild and Scenic Partnership River within the National Park Service's Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The lower Farmington is defined as a 40-mile stretch between the lower Collinsville Dam in Burlington and the Rainbow Dam in Windsor in the Fifth and First Congressional Districts.

The Farmington River and Salmon Brook's recreational and environmental contributions to our State are well-known and must be protected for future generations. The 14 miles of the Farmington River's West Branch, designated as a Wild and Scenic Partnership River in 1994, is a resounding environmental and economic success. Partnership designation for the West Branch has fostered public-private partnerships to preserve the area's environment and heritage, while yielding the economic benefits to river towns.

The West Branch of the river is home to trout, river otter and bald eagle populations; and historic structures still grace its banks. Fishermen, hikers, canoeists and kayakers enjoy the river and its banks year-round. In addition, a 2003 study by North Carolina State University found that partnership designation resulted in millions in economic activity and increased property values in the river towns of Barkhamsted, Canton, Colebrook, Hartland, and New Hartford.

I hope to see the rest of the Farmington River, as well as Salmon Brook, enjoy similar success. This new initiative is an ideal way to extend that protection and showcase the river's unique cultural and recreational resources, including native American archaeological sites and the Farmington River Canal remnants.

The Lower Farmington also offers recreational opportunities and has been the site of U.S. Olympic Team white water slalom trials. Additionally, the river is home to native brook trout and the slimy sculpin, two fish species only found in areas of high-quality water.

The study of the river is an essential step forward in the designation process. With its strong bipartisan support, I also would like to thank the Resources Committee for bringing this bill forward. I encourage my colleagues to support the legislation.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic River Study Act, I rise in strong support of this very important bill.

Connecticut is fortunate to be the home of the Farmington River, which hosts a wealth of natural beauty, a variety of wildlife, and a cultural past important to our state, region, and Nation. In 1994, Congress recognized the upper section of the Farmington—a 14 mile-long stretch that runs from the base of the Goodwin Dam in Hartland to the downstream border of Canton and New Hartford, as Wild and Scenic. As a federally protected river segment, the natural splendor and resources of